Import of edible oil

*18. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to import 1 million tonnes of edible oil for distribution to the poor through PDS with subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when the subsidized distribution has started;

(d) the rate at which it is being distributed; and

(e) how much subsidized edible oil has been distributed till date?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Central Government has introduced a Scheme for distribution of upto 10 lakh tons of imported edible oils in 2008–09 with a subsidy of Rs.15/- per kg. through State Governments/UTs @ 1 kg. per ration card per month through PDS shops/other outlets as decided by them. Twentynine States/UTs which sought allocation of edible oil have been allocated edible oil under the Scheme. The edible oil is imported, packed and supplied by the Central PSUs to the States/UTs at the cost incurred minus subsidy.

(c) and (d) The Scheme has been formally launched on 28th July, 2008 from Andhra Pradesh. The issue price to consumers is decided by the Governments of States/UTs, the details of which are given at the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to starred Question 15 part (d) and (e)]

(e) Under the Scheme, orders have been placed by Central PSUs for import of 3.48 lakh tons of edible oils. Till 13.10.2008, 2.39 lakh tons of edible oil have landed in the country and about 1.43 lakh tons have been handed over to various States/UTs by Central PSUs for distribution to ration card holders.

Unmanned level crossings

*19. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned level crossings currently in existence, Zone-wise and the number of accidents occurred there during the last three years;

(b) what are the measures taken to avert such accidents and whether they are adequate and effective; and

(c) whether there is any plan of action with a time-frame to avoid the use of these unmanned level crossings permanently by going for alternative infrastructure like over bridges/subways, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Zone-wise number of unmanned level crossings as on 01.04.2008, and the number of accidents occurred during last three years are tabulated below: